

I support SB 335. OFRI, which started as an educational committee, has lost neutrality and now represents only industrial time management. Please return it to the original mission.

The bill does three main things which I support:

- 1) Reduces the number of members who can have conflict of interest due to ties to the timber industry from the current 3 of 7 down to 2 of 7. Requires one of the two timber members to be a small woodland owner, and defines the income level that creates a conflict as \$1,000.
- 2) Eliminates the Regional Forest Practices Act Committees. There are three of these standing committees and by law they must be controlled by people with strong ties to timber production. There are no such committees for conservation interests.
- 3) Gives the Governor the power to hire and fire the State Forester. Currently it requires a majority of the Board of Forestry to make that decision, with no formal role for the Governor. Given the increasing importance of forests to both wildfire and climate change, it makes sense to make the position more responsive to an elected official.

Thank you, Joana Kirchhoff, Portland OR